Appl. No. 09/837,686
Amdt. dated September 16, 2004
Reply to Office action of June 17, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) An apparatus for transferring commands, comprising:

> an image scanner including a first port and a second port coupled together through a communication bus;

> a keyboard connected to the image scanner via the image scanner's first port; and

> control logic associated with the communication bus, the control logic is configured to control the passage of data over the communication bus such that data is selectively diverted for use by the image scanner.

2.   (Canceled).

3.   (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
> a computer connected to the image scanner via the image scanner's second port, where the communication bus passes commands from the keyboard directly to the computer.

4.   (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control logic is configured to detect the presence of commands from the keyboard.

5.   (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the control logic routes commands from the keyboard to the computer.

6.   (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising keyboard enable logic associated with the control logic.

7.　　(Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the keyboard enable logic instructs the control logic to route commands from the keyboard to a keyboard/image scanner interface.

8.　　(Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a power detector coupled to the communication bus, the power detector configured to detect a power signal from a computer.

9.　　(Original) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising power supply logic configured to supply power to the keyboard if the power detector fails to detect the power signal from the computer.

10.　　(Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the keyboard/image scanner interface is configured to receive keyboard commands from the control logic and forward the keyboard commands to a processor of the image scanner.

11.　　(Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the keyboard commands correspond to an email address.

12.　　(Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the keyboard commands correspond to a facsimile address.

13.　　(Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a network interface module coupled to the keyboard/image scanner interface, the network interface module configured to connect the image scanner to an external network.

14.　　(Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein a document scanned by the image scanner is electronically mailed over the external network.

15.   (Currently amended) A method for communicating commands from a keyboard to an image scanner, the method comprising:

connecting an image scanner to a computer over a communication bus in the image scanner;~~and~~

connecting a keyboard to the image scanner via the communication bus, where the communication bus passes commands from the keyboard directly to the computer: and

selectively diverting commands from the communication bus for use by the image scanner.

16.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising detecting whether a power signal is being transmitted from the computer to the image scanner.

17.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising supplying power to the keyboard from the image scanner if the power signal from the computer is not detected.

18.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising detecting, within the image scanner, the presence of commands from the keyboard.

19.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising routing commands from the keyboard to the computer.

20.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising routing commands from the keyboard to the image scanner.

21.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

receiving keyboard commands from a keyboard/image scanner interface associated with the communication bus; and

forwarding the keyboard commands to a processor of the image scanner.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the keyboard commands correspond to an email address.

23.   (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the keyboard commands correspond to a facsimile address.

24.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
coupling a network interface module to the keyboard/image scanner interface; and
connecting the image scanner to an external network.

25.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising electronically mailing a document scanned by the image scanner over the external network.

26.   (Currently amended) A scanner, comprising:
a scanner input element to scan a document;
control logic coupled to the scanner input element;
a first connection coupled to the control logic to which a user-activated input device can be connected; and
a second connection coupled to the control logic to which a computer can be connected;
wherein the control logic selectively permits input signals from the input device to be provided to the scanner to control the scanner ~~and~~or permits input signals from the input device to be provided to the computer to control the computer.

27. (Previously presented) The scanner of claim 26 further comprising an enable control coupled to the control logic to permit a user to select the input device to be operatively connected to the scanner or the computer.

28. (Previously presented) The scanner of claim 26 wherein the input device comprises a keyboard.

29. (Previously presented) The scanner of claim 26 wherein the input device can receive power from the scanner or from the computer and the scanner further comprises a power detector coupled to the control logic, wherein the power detector detects whether the computer is providing power to the input device.

30. (Currently amended) The scanner of claim 29 wherein the power detector causes the power to be supplied from the scanner to the input device if the computer is not providing power to the input device.

31. (Previously presented) The scanner of claim 26 further comprising a display coupled to the control logic and a user can cause information to be shown on the display via operation of the input device connected to the scanner.

32. (New) A system, comprising
   a computer;
   a scanner coupled to the computer; and
   a keyboard coupled to the scanner,
   wherein the scanner is configured to pass keyboard commands to the computer and to selectively use keyboard commands to control a function of the scanner based on a user-controlled signal.

33. (New) The system of claim 32 wherein the user-controlled signal comprises a predetermined keystroke.

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34.   (New) The system of claim 32 wherein the user-controlled signal comprises a signal activated via a switch located on an outer surface of the scanner.

35.   (New) The system of claim 32 wherein the function comprises designating a destination of a file associated with a scanned document.

36.   (New) The system of claim 35 wherein the system further comprises a network coupled to the scanner and wherein designating a destination of the file comprises designating a destination available via the network.

37.   (New) The system of claim 32 wherein the scanner is configured to provide power to and receive keyboard commands from the keyboard to control the function when the computer is off.